

Attica Regional Education Working Group

MEETING MINUTES

30/03/2017 – SAVE THE CHILDREN OFFICES ATHENS, GREECE

AGENDA

- 1 Updates from Partners
- 2 Off-site data collection and findings, Athens Squat survey findings (UNICEF)
- 3 Municipality of Athens Open School programme for summer activities (UNICEF)
- 4 MOE's kindergarten programme (UNICEF)
- 5 Attica WG training – 25 & 26 April 2017
- 6 AOB

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MINUTES

| Agenda item | Discussion points | Action points (by whom and by when) |
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| 2 | <p><u>Off-site mapping of education services findings , and Athens Squat survey findings – presentation by UNICEF</u></p> <p>Data was collected by accommodation partners (not education partners) and there was limited information from squats. The purpose was to get more information on the population that is moving out of the camps to hotels, apartments, squats, private sites, etc. The trend is that the offsite population is growing: from 40% to currently 75%. <i>Education actors need to ensure that the children outside of the camps have access to education</i>, as the reception classes only target on-site children (approximately 2,000 of the estimated 15,000 concerned children are on-site).</p> <p>Finding overview (for full details, refer to circulated presentation): Nationally, 48% of off –site children are accessing some sort of formal or non-formal education. 12% of off-site children are accessing formal education, the majority of these in morning classes, with some in ZEP and DYEP. In Attica, 33% / 661 children are accessing any form of education. <i>Education actors providing non-formal education opportunities near to accommodation centres should check the database to target children ‘not attending at all’, find the organisation running centres nearby, and encourage them to register the children into education (Praxis and Arsis were highlighted)</i></p> <p>For education actors supporting the enrolment of children into morning classes in central Athens, it is recommended to go to the Regional Directorate of Education, not directly to head teachers. The department will then see which nearby schools have vacancies to match the children. This should prevent children being denied at the school-level (cases of denial have been reported, and could be due to school capacity, lack of student vaccinations or student documentation, etc.)</p> <p>Partners waiting for ECHO approval for planned intervention in urban sites can begin some of these suggested action points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have an idea ready of the out-of-school-children in the area that you are targeting so that, | <p>UNICEF / ESWG chair to circulate the presentations</p> <p>Education actors providing non-formal education in central Athens should use the database to target the children categorised as ‘not accessing any education’, contact the accommodation centres near them, and encourage them to support the accommodated children to enrol.</p> <p>Education actors supporting student enrolment to formal schools in central Athens should go through the Regional Directorate of Education, not head teachers.</p> <p>Partners should document and share the cases of drop-outs identified so the External Associates can present these to the MoMp.</p> |

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| | <p>when approved, you can quickly address the children who are not accessing any education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We can form a sub-group for actors that will be intervening in off-site education provision - MoE should be considering establishment of reception classes for off-site children (DYEP), so we should react to that. We know that children aren't ready to go to the morning classes yet due Greek language facility, so actors need to plan complementary support in Greek / homework help in order to facilitate retention in formal schools. | <p>MoMP External Associates will share the reply of the MoMp once received.</p> |
| 3. | <p>Municipality of Athens Open School programme for summer activities (UNICEF)</p> <p>Municipality of Athens is calling for partners who will apply for their open school scheme – 25 open schools in Athens and their spaces are available from 4pm daily for anyone to use. In summer they would like to keep this program running so both refugee/migrant and Greek children make use of this program and have meaningful activities during summer. The Municipality is looking for proposed programs that have a good combination of Greek children and refugee/migrant children to promote integration.</p> | <p>UNICEF will share application form</p> <p>UNICEF will request map of the 25 open schools and circulate</p> |
| 4. | <p>MOE's kindergarten programme (UNICEF)</p> <p>UNHCR is sending containers to various sites soon and kindergartens run by MoE will begin after this. The distribution of containers was decided according to available space, and in agreement with MoMP. MoE will target 4.5 – 5.5 year olds. Actors who are running ECCD activities will need to coordinate with MoE and make a plan to coexist because many actors provide for children aged 3-5 years, while MoE provides for 4.5 - 5.5 year olds.</p> <p>UNICEF is trying to collect information on existing Kindergarten programs.</p> <p>MoE is also calling for partners who can share space with MoE –they do not want to discontinue the existing activities, so there is hope they will be flexible with their hours around existing partner activities.</p> | <p>If any partner has extra space to share with MoE for ECCD, let UNICEF know</p> |

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| 1. | <p><u>Updates from Partners</u></p> <p>UNICEF: They are supporting call centres in urban Athens and started programs for teenagers and unaccompanied children in Elionas. They are continuing supporting programs in Skaramangas.</p> <p>Thiva is getting ready to open - probably in mid-April / after Easter. UNICEF has teachers and furniture ready to start there.</p> <p>British Council: In Skaramangas, despite reception classes ongoing, the overall number of students attending remain the same (some drop outs and relocation experienced but new enrolments as well). There are discussions ongoing about creating a common timetable among education actors in Skaramangas – still ongoing.</p> <p>Lambrakis Foundation: No updates, In Rafina, they are going to start gymnastics for women, teens and children, dancing and gymnastics to pre-schoolers.</p> <p>IOM: In Malakasa, 2 primary schools and 1 high school under formal education have started. One more primary school may start next week. 60 children registered, and 50 attending (aged 6-13). There may still be pending issue of vaccination.</p> <p>In Elefsina, reception classes started on 27 March. The REC expects the number of children to increase in primary schools (from 10-15 children, to possibly double).</p> <p>There is a rumour that if families send their children to school, their papers for relocation would stop being processed. To counter this rumour, IOM created a video for an information campaign that can be found on Youtube and IOM Facebook page.</p> <p>Living for a Better Future: employed teachers to provide classes for young adults, and after-class support for children in reception classes (location not noted).</p> | |

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| | <p>Organisation Earth: conducting education and recreation activities in Lavrio and Saramangas: They now have permission from MoE to conduct English and Greek classes in Lavrio. In Lavrio, they additionally conduct music education and language classes for adults with qualified volunteers (English lessons) and recreational activities for children and toddlers (so parents can attend English lessons). They note the issue of space in Lavrio.</p> <p>In Skaramangas, excursions to the cultural centre are offered for children (6-17 year olds) once per month. A gardening program will start in conjunction with DRC. They offer online Language support in cooperation with the Municipality and University of Pireaus, where teens can attend online language courses (12 languages). There was previously an animal welfare program but currently lacking funding. If other actors want to collaborate, they can provide workshops.</p> <p>A football program is conducted in both camps, with a girls' football club starting 2 months ago, and they plan to start swimming lessons when weather improves.</p> <p>A dental care program for children was conducted – hygiene workshops integrated into education. If there is a need identified, actors can request to repeat this program.</p> <p>SIF: In Malakasa, they continue to run Ideas Box, non-formal education and psychological support. Reception classes started on 27 March, with 50 children attending. The overall population of Malakasa increased to 780 and children are now more than 300, yet only 50 are attending reception classes.</p> <p>A challenge SIF noted is that NGOs can not provide services during reception class hours. They know that the schools have capacity to take all 300 children, but since many are new arrivals, the registration process takes time and these children may not be able to start in the reception classes before the summer.</p> | <p>If actors are interested in collaborating on animal welfare programs, contact Organisation Earth</p> <p>If actors identify a need for dental hygiene workshops, contact Organisation Earth</p> |

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| | <p>There is a call for books: for actors interested in donating books, there is a community member of Malakasa establishing a library (Dari and Farsi books)</p> <p>Ministry of Migration Policy: External associates of MoMP are conducting interviews for students (aged 15+) who are attending education activities inside camps. Currently they have conducted the interviews at Lavrio and Skaramangas, and will continue in all the rest of sites.</p> <p>Save the Children: Continuing activities in Schisto, Malakassa, Skaramangas, and Elliniko 1&3 (static) and a Mobile Unit visiting Elefsina and Oinafyta providing English, Greek and Math lessons to ages 6-18. They started language classes for 18-24 year olds in Elleniko, Skaramangas, Schisto and Malakasa and started teaching language classes to mothers attending the Mother and Baby areas.</p> <p>Children in Malakasa started reception classes on 27 March, although they are not yet experiencing changes in attendances, there may be a need to adjust timetable with new arrivals and reception classes starting.</p> <p>No updates from national education working group / required actions.</p> | <p>If any actors are interested in donating books, contact SIF</p> |
| 5. | <p><u>Attica Education Working Group training</u></p> <p>A 2-day training is being offered to the participants of the Attica ESWG (it is not compulsory). Participants can choose to attend one or both days, and the sessions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Day 1 : PTAs & Community Engagement and - Day 2 : Conflict sensitive education <p>The training will take place on 25 & 26 April 2017 and will be facilitated by Kelsey Darlymple (SCI Education working group Coordinator).</p> | <p>SCI sent out a survey last week, please respond to indicate how many participants would like to attend.</p> <p>Organisations are requested to reply with an estimated total number of participants, interested in Day 1 / Day 2 / both days.</p> |

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| 6. | <p><u>AOB</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ramadan starts 27 May – expect low participation during this period. Advocacy will be required with the communities. It is advised to plan more activities in the morning versus afternoon 2. Activity Info- UNICEF will produce Activity Info results on 31 March. For support on completing Activity Info, contact UNICEF. Additionally, there will be a new training on Monday, 3 April at UNHCR at 10am– not education specific. 3. Trainings planned from various education actors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mercy Corps training for Profound Stress in the coming month - British Council training on Life Skills – dates to be confirmed. They will also provide the training to Greek teachers in conjunction with the Municipality of Athens. - UNICEF training on basic pedagogy and mother tongue materials, targeting mother tongue teachers, particularly those who may not have previously been teachers. Dates to be confirmed. - UNICEF is discussing with UNHCR to conduct a GBV training, which will be useful for education actors, especially teachers who are teaching teenagers. - British Council is offering a digital story-telling / digital competencies workshop. It is designed into 3 modules, it will be open to NGO staff working with adolescents and adolescents from the shelters. | <p>Partners to provide inputs into Activity Info by 31 March. If you need training, let UNICEF know.</p> |

NEXT MEETING: 13/04/2017 – Save the Children Office, no. 81, 28 Oktovriou/Patission street at 1300 (1pm).

The meeting will be confirmed via email at the beginning of that week.